

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-95 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Ogasawara. The claims are amended and therefore recite statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 17-19, 21, 25, 27-30, 32-38, 41-42, 60, 62, 66, 68-69, 89-92 and 95 are pending in this application. Claims 5-7, 12-16, 20, 22-24, 26, 31, 39-40, 43-58, 61, 63-65, 67, 70-88 and 93-94 are being canceled by the applicant.

It is advanced that these amendments satisfy the objection of the Examiner and that these claims are in position to grant.

Claim 1 has been amended to read:

1. (Amended) A system for presenting information regarding products and services via a network of computers, the system comprising:

a plurality of market databases registered with a cooperative communications network wherein the databases are constantly refreshed with new real time data sets to update the data by the sellers,

an analytical agent for mining data related to a selected item from at least one of said plurality of market databases, said analytical agent further organized for generating a subset of data that most closely meets a preprogrammed goal,

at least one of a seller's inter-agents in communication with said analytical agent for receiving said subset of data, said at least one of a seller's inter-agents for generating at least one showcase database based on said subset of data responsive to a set of seller's sales objectives, each showcase registered with a cooperative communications network wherein the data is accessed on a computer network by at least one buyer in real time and wherein the buyer and sellers interact over the computer network in real time,

and a user interface for displaying information derived from said showcase database.

The claimed invention organizes a collection of databases in which data is "pushed" from the various sellers in a group of vendors to a set of distributed databases in real time. As new items are made available, they are added to the next sequence of continuously pushed messages, while as items are sold, they are removed from the next sequence of real time messages. The

current list of items is constantly refreshed in the distributed databases. The amended claim language specifies the continuous change in real time of the state of the data sets that are offered in the databases that are referenced for sales in a computer network.

The amended claim language is supported in the specification at figures 1 to 9 and is supported by the description of the CCN and Showcases at pages 43 to 49 in the detailed description of the drawings.

The significance of organizing databases in a network computing system that constantly updates its data sets by having sellers push new, more current, data to the databases allows the system to remove a central portal that traditionally supports e-commerce communications systems. By allowing the technical removal of the central portal, a peer-to-peer communication system of organizing e-commerce is possible over a distributed computer network. This system allows sellers anywhere in the world to communicate directly with buyers anywhere without the need for an intermediary. This disintermediated e-commerce system is an advance over the prior art.

Prior e-commerce systems use a central portal with static information that resembles a catalogue. After a buyer uses a computer to access the portal, the buyer requests information about specific products or services from a specific seller. This one-to-one process resembles the use of a telephone system in which a single buyer contacts a single seller to order a product.

The present system goes further by using the databases in the network computing system to organize multiple sellers into industry specific cooperative communications networks. The configuration of each CCN by combinations of sellers will change over time as new sellers are added and other sellers are subtracted. The network computing database system is therefore plastic at least in part because of the dynamic real time nature of its composition. The data sets forwarded to the CCN databases from the sellers are also dynamic. Like a river, the data sets in a dynamic CCN constantly change. Therefore, a buyer that accesses the CCN will obtain different items at different times, with constantly changed features and prices. This plastic distributed database system is preparatory to a dynamic peer-to-peer e-commerce system targeted to businesses in the supply chain.

With a buyer accessing this reconfiguring network computing system of multiple sellers, an RFP of a dynamic peer-to-peer system is made possible that provides flexibility beyond that

possible with a simple catalogue form process that configures a buyer and a seller. The multiple sellers in the network compete for the buyer by providing information in real time that constantly changes with respect to the buyer's requests. For example, as the seller receives a better price from its vendors on components in its products, it will be able to pass these savings on instantly to the buyer, thereby maintaining a competitive advantage.

Unlike the traditional static catalogue model used in most consumer-focused e-commerce systems, the present system is ideal for businesses in the supply chain which undergo rapid changes in circumstances as business conditions constantly change.

Ogasawara does not anticipate the claimed invention. Ogasawara describes "an electronic shopping system which utilizes an electronic shopping agent (ESA) for allowing communication between customers and retailing during Internet shopping." (First line of abstract.) Further, "the customer profile information and customer request is bundled as a request for a proposal (RFP) and forwarded to the selected retailers for servicing. The retailers, upon receipt of the RFP submit proposals to the ESA for forwarding to the requesting customer." (lines 5 and 6 of the abstract).

In contrast to Ogasawara, claim one of the invention pushes data from multiple sellers prior to the RFP. In addition, claim one of the present system has the buyer beginning the process in a demand-initiated process. It is clearly illustrated that claim one of the system removes the intermediary, which Ogasawara takes pain to add.

Further, please note that a single retail database is accessed in Ogasawara, akin to a simple retailer catalogue. In addition, in Ogasawara, the customer data is used by sellers in the process of the shopping agent making an RFP. This is a simple static shopping agent akin to a catalogue. Specifically, the shopping system is suited for a centralized portal in which sales is performed one-to-one between a single seller and a single buyer. Its emphasis is on the request for proposal by the buyer in a demand initiated communication system. The catalogue system for the customer and the retailer is merely structured in a network computing system.

As amended, Claim 1 of the present invention provides a forum for the continual refreshing of data from multiple sellers that is then accessed by multiple buyers in real time. The present system presents a network computing model for the organization of multiple sellers to communicate with multiple buyers without a central portal, thereby allowing the direct sales

between a buyer and multiple sellers. It is clear from the amended claim one of the present system that the multiple databases are dynamic and accommodate rapid change. Claim one of the present system also clearly discloses a distributed database network in the sense that it accesses multiple vendors databases in different locations and inputs the data sets into the CCNs. Consequently, the amended claim one of the present system demonstrates an interactive process over time, rather than a simple passive catalogue that is processed through a single portal as in Ogasawara. This network access feature made possible by the novel network computing configuration of the system is an advance over Ogasawara.

Further, the Examiner specified that the analytical agent, which performs analysis and filtering of data, is used by Ogasawara. However, it is observed that the analytical agent used by Ogasawara is primarily used by the buyers to organize data in the catalogue of the seller. In the present system, the analytical agent is used to intermediate between the sellers' databases in the CCN and the seller and buyer inter-agents in order to direct the buyer to the appropriate seller item features. The analytical agents and the inter-agents act as intermediaries in the system that is preparatory to the application of the step of utility by the search agent. The search agent is used by the buyer to access the data sets of the CCN to gather information on multiple sellers. The buyer then accesses information on the multiple sellers' items features in preparation for an real-time interactive RFP to multiple sellers simultaneously. The analytical agents are industry focused on gathering data sets from multiple sellers preparatory to the actual negotiation process. Unlike in Ogasawara, they do not organize a catalogue of data from a specific seller for a specific buyer. Reference to the search agent and negotiation agents are later steps in the complex process of dynamic intra-industry peer-to-peer e-commerce directed to the supply chain in the present invention. The present system is differentiated over the prior art.

Accordingly, the amended claim 1 is patentable over Ogasawara. Removal of about two thirds of the claims in the application further prepares the application for grant. The amended claims in the application are also patentable, both because they derive patentability from their dependence from the amended claim 1, and because each recites its own patentable features.

Favorable action is solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, mail or electronic mail in order to advance prosecution. Applicant acknowledges that

a copy of any electronic mail communications will be made of record in the application file per MPEP section 502.03.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Neal E. Solomon/

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